



Foreign Agricultural Service

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Philippines

Biotechnology

Bt Corn Field Tests Show Increased Corn Yield

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Report Highlights:

Bt Corn field tests by Monsanto during the wet season reveal an average yield increase of 40 percent over traditional corn varieties on top of additional savings as a result of reduced pesticide applications.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Manila [RP1], RP

Monsanto Philippines, Inc. has reported a 40 percent average increase in yield with Bt corn compared to traditional hybrid corn varieties planted based on six field tests conducted in several locations in the country. The field tests were conducted during the wet season wherein corn borer infestation is higher compared to the dry season. The harvested corn ears reportedly were of better quality with less fungal infections. Monsanto is currently preparing for the field testing of Bt corn during the dry season and is still waiting for the GOP to formulate and approve the commercialization guidelines on GMO products before it markets Bt corn seeds.

The average 40 percent yield advantage of Bt corn over the traditional corn varieties translates to a potential P12,000 (\$235) per hectare additional income for farmers based on a farm gate price of P6 (\$0.12) per kilo of corn. In addition, according to a Monsanto representative, the use of Bt corn likewise will reduce, if not eliminate the cost of traditional pesticides which is usually applied twice in a planting season. Each pesticide application costs around P1,000 per hectare on top of an additional labor cost of around P150 per application.